



Hamilton

**Meeting Minutes  
Seniors Advisory  
Committee**

**March 5, 2021**

**10:00am – 12:00pm**

**Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall**

**All electronic meetings can be viewed at:**

**City's YouTube Channel**

**<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>**

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**In Attendance:**

Penelope Petrie (Chair), Aref Alshaikhahmed, Sheryl Boblin, David Broom, Carolann Fernandes, Jeanne Mayo, Maureen McKeating, Sarah Shallwani, Barry Spinner, Douglas Stone, Marian Toth, Marjorie Wahlman, Lisa Maychak, Ann Elliot, Kamal Jain, Noor Nizam

**Also, in Attendance:**

Cole Gately, Staff Liaison, Diversity and Inclusion Office  
Taline Morris, Admin Assistant, Diversity and Inclusion Office  
Darren Murphy, Crimes Against Seniors Unit, Hamilton Police Services  
Edward Soldo, Director, Transportation Operations and Maintenance

Councillor Tom Jackson

**Absent with Regrets:** Dahlia Petgrave

**Absent:** Vince Mercuri

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**1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES**

Land Acknowledgement presented by M. Toth.

S. Shallwani volunteered to read Land Acknowledgement at the next meeting.

Committee members observed 30 seconds of silence for the seniors that have lost their lives due to COVID-19.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

That the following items be added to the agenda:

Item 1 – M. McKeating would like to add reading materials to other business  
Item 2 –Leave of Absence for D. Petgrave

### (M. Wahlman/ D. Broom)

That the Senior Advisory Committee approves the March 5, 2021 agenda, as amended.

**CARRIED**

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

J. Mayo provided typographical edits.

### (M. Wahlman/ M. Toth)

That the Senior's Advisory Committee approves the February 5, 2021 Minutes as amended with typographical edits.

**CARRIED**

## 4. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

### i. Edward Soldo-Director, Transportation Operations and Maintenance

Edward Soldo, Director of Transportation Operations and Maintenance spoke with the Senior Advisory Committee about the City of Hamilton's winter control E. Sold program which encompasses of 6479 kilometers of roads and 2445 kilometers of sidewalks, which are maintained according to maintenance standards. Total operational 2021 budget is approximately 33.6 million dollars. Core activities can include monitoring weather conditions, anti-icing, de-icing, snow plowing/removal and disposal. Last to back snowfall event in the City took 7 to 8 days to clear. As per maintenance standard, sidewalk clearings done up approximately 48 hours after a snowfall event, however City staff aim to have this completed 24 hours after a snowfall event. E. Soldo also reviewed the snow angels' program which involves community members volunteering to clear snow for seniors. As per E. Soldo, recommendations for enhancements to the sidewalk program and updated costs will be presented to council in April. If accepted, implementation would be in winter 2022.

Note: E. Soldo's presentation was interrupted as Staff was made aware that the Senior Advisory Committee meeting was not being live streamed. Meeting was recessed for staff to troubleshoot.

**ii. Darren Murphy - Crimes Against Seniors Unit (CASU), Hamilton Police Services**

Darren Murphy presented to the Senior's Advisory Committee about the role of the Crimes Against Seniors unit in the community and how issues within long-term care homes are addressed.

As per D. Murphy, the mandate of the crimes against seniors unit is to investigate crimes for persons over 60 and vulnerable adults. He advised that the CASU gets involved when there is a report of crime or potential crime as per referral process that is already in place for long term care and retirement homes.

D. Murphy reviewed examples of potential crimes and the process for investigations when a death occurs in a facility. He further highlighted that while there have been charges laid because of assault, sexual assault, theft and fraud, there have been no charges relating to neglect.

A question and answer period followed the presentation in which D. Murphy answered questions submitted in advance and at today's meeting.

**(S. Boblin/M. Toth)**

That the Seniors' Advisory Committee receive the presentations by Edward Soldo, Director of Transportation Operations and Maintenance and Darren Murphy with the Crimes Against Seniors Unit at the Hamilton Police Service.

**10. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**i. Proposed Statement Regarding LTC Residential Homes (Item 10.3)**

This item was moved forward to 10.1 in the interest of time.

The Seniors' Advisory Committee has created an attached statement for resolution concerning retirement and long-term care homes to be submitted to council for consideration that reads as follows:

## Resolution concerning Retirement and Long-Term Care Homes

Following the recent articles printed in the Hamilton Spectator concerning the state of COVID-19 outbreaks in Long-term Care and Retirement Homes in the City of Hamilton, the Seniors Advisory Committee states the following:

Seniors Advisory Committee deplores the deaths related to COVID-19 in residential and long-term care homes in Hamilton. However, SAC recognizes the great efforts deployed by all concerned which have resulted in Hamilton's COVID-19 death rate as being almost 10% less than the provincial average. (See Hamilton Spectator, Feb. 11, 2021).

Seniors' Advisory Committee requests that the City of Hamilton convey our great appreciation to all the personnel working at Macassa and Wentworth lodges for working so hard to contain the spread of COVID-19 in these facilities. (See Hamilton Spectator, Feb. 6, 2021)

Seniors' Advisory Committee deplores the fact that the Government of Ontario has not carried out full comprehensive inspections of long-term care homes in Hamilton since 2018 and urges the City of Hamilton to compel the Government of Ontario to undertake comprehensive inspections of all long-term care homes in the City of Hamilton immediately and ensure recommendations for changes are implemented. (See Hamilton Spectator, Feb. 11)

Seniors' Advisory Committee urges the City of Hamilton to ensure that all retirement homes and long-term care homes in Hamilton comply with all municipal and provincial standards.

Seniors' Advisory Committee requests that a spokesperson from the City of Hamilton attend a SAC meeting to outline the actions being undertaken to ensure the health and safety of the residents and staff in retirement and Long-Term Care Homes.

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**Discussion on the motion:** There was some discussion on inviting a staff member from the City to speak with the senior advisory committee regarding investigations in long term care homes.

Councillor Jackson to investigate inviting General Manager Paul Johnson from healthy and safe communities and/or Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health to present to the committee.

**(J. Mayo/M. McKeating)**

That the Seniors' Advisory Committee would like to submit the attached resolution concerning retirement and long-term care homes to council for consideration.

**CARRIED**

**ii. All Advisory Committee Event Feedback (Item 10.1)**

Staff advised, that the Clerk's office is planning an All Advisory Committee Event. This event would provide an opportunity to learn about other committees, as well as share information about their committees. Staff advised the senior advisory committee, that dates have not been set yet, however, the Clerk's office is looking for feedback on whether this is something the committee would be interested in. Committee members expressed interest in an all advisory event.

**iii. International Federation on Aging Conference November 9-12, 2021 (Item 10.2)**

The International Federation On Aging Conference will take place in November 2021 in Niagara Falls. Individuals can attend virtually or in person. The cost for the virtual registration is \$400.

**(J. Mayo/D. Broom)**

That the senior advisory committee will pay half the registration fee for 2 committee members to attend the international federation on aging conference virtually from November 9-12, 2021.

**CARRIED**

**iv. Working Groups (Item 10.4)**

**a. Getting Around Hamilton Working Group**

J. Mayo advised that the working group will be discussing follow-up to the snow-removal presentation received at today's meeting. They will also begin to address the issue of e-bikes on trails and will introduce the concept of mobility justice.

**b. Older Adult Financial & Physical Abuse Working Group**

D. Broom reported that a resource officer is working on a closed-circuit television for City Housing Hamilton to impart information to their senior residents.

M. Wahlman reported that officer M. McLaughlin arranged to have informational placemats made for seniors. Each placemat costs approximately \$1.14 to make. A request for funding may appear later.

**c. Housing Working Group**

There are no updates from this group.

**d. Communication Working Group**

D. Broom report that there have been changes made to the City of Hamilton Seniors website. As a result, all committee members are encouraged to review website. The working group is now working on getting the information from the website out to seniors in the community. The working group have re-established their relationship with Hamilton Public Library. Elizabeth Blackwell is the representative from the library who will attend all working group meetings. Tammy Dumas from 211 will also be attending future meetings. The next meeting is March 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

**v. Committees (Item 10. 2)**

**a. Age Friendly Plan - Governance Committee**

There are no updates from this committee.

**b. Older Adult Network**

There are no updates from this committee.

**c. International Day of Older Persons Committee**

There are no updates from this committee.

**d. McMaster Institute for Research on Aging**

There are no updates from this committee.

**e. Ontario Health Coalition**

C. Fernandes reports she will continue to send out reports as they are received.

**f. Our Future Hamilton Update**

There are no updates

**g. Senior of the Year Award**

Nominations opened on March 1, 2021. The event will take place in the fall.

**12. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS****i. Reading Material (Added Item 1)**

M. McKeating encouraged her colleagues to read the book titled *Neglected No More* by André Picard. The book is about persistent ongoing neglect in long term care homes in Canada.

**ii. Correspondence from Clerk's regarding citizen committee reports**

The Seniors' Advisory Committee requested an update to their response that was provided to the Clerk's Office regarding the citizen committee report correspondence. Staff indicated she did not receive the committee's response. Committee chair to re-send to staff for forwarding to the Clerk's Office.

**iii. Leave of Absence**

An email correspondence was received from D. Petgrave requesting a Leave of Absence for a period of 3 months due to medical reasons.

**(P.Petrie/M. Wahlman)**

That the senior advisory committee approves a leave of absence for D. Petgrave for a period of 3 months as requested.

**CARRIED**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

**(D. Broom/M. Wahlman)**

That the Senior's Advisory Committee adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 9,2021